



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**MOORISH TEMPLE**

**OF**

**AMERICA**

**PART 7 OF 8**

**BUFILE: 62-25889**

# Moorish Science Temple of America

(Noble Drew Ali)

Part 7 of 14 parts

HEADQUARTERS

62-25889

ENCLOSURES

BEHIND

FILE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

NY FILE NO. **62-756**

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REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/6/40</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/25/40</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> <b>b7c</b>
TITLE <b>MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Information received that Japanese Chamber of Commerce officials have on several occasions spoken before the Hartford, Conn. Chapter of the "MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA," a Negro organization in the U. S. claiming over 2,000,000 members who describe themselves as Moors and not Negroes. Series of six articles prepared for a Hartford newspaper about this Moorish organization obtained and forwarded to Bureau.

**DETAILS:**

**AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

The information contained in this matter was obtained from a confidential informant in Hartford, Conn. whose name is being forwarded to the Bureau under separate cover.

Informant advised that a Negro individual known as "Mund [redacted] [redacted]" who resides in Brooklyn, N. Y., came to Hartford, Conn. in the summer of 1936 and established local Chapter No. 35 of "The Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc." which organization [redacted] is believed to be one that was originally founded by "Is [redacted] [redacted]" of Chicago, Ill.

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED   COPIES OF THIS REPORT <b>5 - Bureau (10 enclosures)</b> <b>2 - Chicago (information)</b> <b>3 - New York</b>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES  <div style="text-align: center;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <u>11/31/80</u> BY <u>SP2 JAL/RS</u> <b>62-25889-5 (EBF)</b></div>
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The informant further advised that this organization was believed founded for the purpose of "uplifting the lot of the poor negro in the United States." He stated further that this organization claims to have over 3,000,000 members at the present time throughout the United States.

Informant stated that the reason he thought this matter would be of interest to the Federal Bureau of Investigation was the fact that on several occasions members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce were reported to have spoken at meetings held by the Hartford Chapter and that, therefore, there was the possibility the Japanese government might be spreading propaganda at these meetings. Informant advised that he has a negro informant who attends the meetings held and who has given him information about what transpired at the various meetings. He informed that this organization has not been very active recently and the summer of 1939 was the last time that Japanese officials spoke at the Hartford meetings. He stated that in the event he receives further information about the activities of this organization he will immediately notify the writer.

Informant furnished the writer a photo of the cover of the "Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America," and also photos of three inside pages of this same book. In addition to this the informant furnished the writer rough draft proofs of six short articles he had prepared for possible publication in a Hartford newspaper. Photostatic copies were made of the above material and one set of these photostats are being forwarded to the Bureau and another set is being retained in the New York file on this matter. The originals of the above were returned to the informant.

No further investigation will be conducted on this matter by the New York Division unless the Bureau directs to the contrary. Two copies of this report are being forwarded to the Chicago Division inasmuch as the main headquarters for this organization is given as "Noble Drew Ali, founder, Moorish Science Temple of America, 930 N. Townsend St., Chicago, Ill."

ENCLOSURES TO THE BUREAU (10)

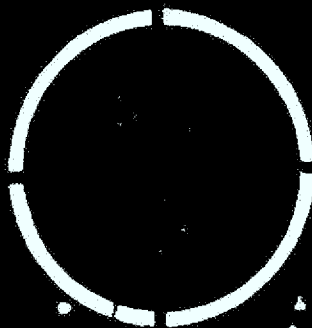
Photostats of 4 pages taken from the "Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America," and six rough draft articles dealing with this organization.

C L O S E D

# The Holy Koran

OF THE

MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE  
OF AMERICA



DIVINELY PREPARED BY THE NOBLE PROPHET

By the guiding of his father God, Allah, the great God  
of the universe, to redeem man from a sinful  
and fallen stage of humanity back to the highest  
plane of life with his father God, Allah.





The Great Meeting  
Is On!



KORAN QUESTIONS FOR MOORISH AMERICANS



MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE OF AMERICA  
930 N. TOWNSEND ST. CHICAGO, ILL.  
FREE LECTURES

## Moorish American Prayer

ALL AMERICAN PRAYER BOOK  
 FROM THE PRAYER BOOK OF THE AMERICAN  
 PROTESTANT CHURCH  
 BY BENJAMIN H. HILL, D.D.



## Koran Questions for Moorish Children

1. What is the Koran?
2. What is the meaning of the word Koran?
3. What is the meaning of the word Prophet?
4. What is the meaning of the word Angel?
5. What is the meaning of the word Heaven?
6. What is the meaning of the word Hell?
7. What is the meaning of the word Paradise?
8. What is the meaning of the word Judgment?
9. What is the meaning of the word Resurrection?
10. What is the meaning of the word Day of Wrath?
11. What is the meaning of the word Day of Grace?
12. What is the meaning of the word Day of Wrath?
13. What is the meaning of the word Day of Grace?
14. What is the meaning of the word Day of Wrath?
15. What is the meaning of the word Day of Grace?



## FROM THE HOLY PROPHET

16. Through sin and disobedience every nation has suffered slavery, due to the fact that they honored not the creed and principles of their forefathers.

17. That is why the nationality of the Moors was taken away from them in 1774 and the word negro, black and colored, was given to the Asiatics of America who were of Moorish descent, because they honored not the principles of their mother and father, and strayed after the gods of Europe of whom they knew nothing.

## CHAPTER XLVIII

### THE END OF TIME AND THE FULFILLING OF THE PROPHECIES

1. The last Prophet in these days is Noble Drew Ali, who was prepared divinely in due time by Allah to reveal to the people their sacred ways, and to warn them of the great and terrible things to come upon the earth.

2. When the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus in these days, he warned and stirred up the nation and prepared them to receive the divine creed which was to be taught by Jesus.

3. In these modern days there came a forerunner, who was divinely prepared by the great God Allah and his name is, *Muhammad*, who did teach and warn the nations of the earth to prepare to meet the coming Prophet; who was to bring the true and divine Creed of Allah, and his name is Noble Drew Ali, who was prepared and sent forth by Allah to teach the old time religion and the everlasting gospel to the sons of men. That every nation shall and must worship under their own vine and fig tree, and return to their own, and be one with their Father, God Allah.

4. The Moorish Science Temple of America is a lawfully chartered and incorporated organization. Any sovereign State that desires to receive a charter the prophet has them to issue to it, not throughout the United States, etc.

5. That the world may hear and know the truth, that among the descendants of Africa there is still much wisdom to be learned in these days for the redemption of the sons of men under every Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice.

6. We, as a clean and pure nation descended from the inhabitants of Africa, do not desire to amalgamate or marry with the families of the pale skin nations of Europe. Neither serve the gods of their religion, because our forefathers are the true and divine founders of the first religious creed, for the redemption and salvation of mankind on earth.

7. Therefore we are returning the Church and Christianity back to the European Nations, as it was prepared by their forefathers for their earthly salvation.

8. While the Moorish Americans are returning to Islam, which was founded by our forefathers for our earthly and divine salvation.

Article V

city

"The head of every temple must by Law Obey the word of the Prophet and if any head leader or head of any temple fails to Obey these Laws--Disobedience is his charge and is Subject to enforcement of the Law by the Grand Body."

Thus reads the second paragraph of Part 11 of a folder presumably prepared by Noble Drew Ali, founder of the Moorish Science Temple of America, and placed in the hands of Grand Sheikh Roy, head of the local temple situated at 229

Village Street.

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2. (v)

"and the Penalty," paragraph three reads, "may be a fine or removal from office; or placed under a very heavy restriction of the Law."

As the head of an organization of several hundred Hartford Negro members who profess the practice of Mohammedanism,

he is also advised in this folder containing the "by-laws" that he must submit a monthly report of all finances to headquarters in Chicago.

Moreover, he is cautioned that he must refrain from "all wasteful words," from profanity even "in the mildest form," from "all alcoholic liquors or any other harmful wrath" which might "permanently attack to destroy peace or any other of the divine principles" and from contributing "to anything that will cause the public to disapprove."

A Grand Sheikh must live "the life of Love, Truth, Force, Freedom and Justice," and must keep his house "cleansed with good deeds, kind words."

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3. (v)

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"If there are Children you must see to their support," the by-laws continued. "Follow this Divine principle, for if you don't restrict to this divine principle then you are not a true Moor." Every member of the organization believes himself to be descended from Moroccans.

"And the heads are not to charge for Membership," the rules go on. "There are to charge for cards, buttons or for any thing issued by the Prophet."

"Those who contribute to either of the preceding are not Moors but Robbers. Membership Fee for Sisters and Brothers is not only here but all over the world."

Price of the buttons (.25¢) and of the citizenship cards (.25¢) and the amount of monthly dues (.50¢) is then cited. "This is not said does not entitle you to the protection that is provided for you, and especially if you are working or in a position to work," the by-laws read.



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"If you neglect to fulfill this small duty assigned you, how can you rightfully expect money or any other help when you are sick or otherwise disabled?"

They said that some

indicating that the collection of dues a month from each member was not wholly successful, paid 50 cents "when you can pay it."

"And to be a real Moorish leader," the by-laws state, "you must study the Koran and the Divine Constitution that is handed down unto you by me, the Prophet."

It is added that "the head of any temple can maintain an emergency fund" not exceeding 50 cents a week per member.

Under a page headed "SUPREME WORDS OF THE PROPHET NOB-DREW ALL" members are informed "that they must and all radical Agitating Speeches while at work, in their homes, or on the streets."

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stop flashing your cards (citizenship) at anyone. It causes confusion. Remember your card is for your protection. All we to obey these orders with up of severe consequences. We are for Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and when these principles are Violated, Justice must then take its course," the speakers words say

"Any member or group of members who hold malicious feelings toward The Temple or the Prophet, or Violate the Divine Government of the Moorish Movement will receive their heavenly reward for their Unjust acts," Moorish-Americans here agreed.

Should a member lose confidence in his prophet, he should return to the state where I the prophet, found you."

"This is a holy and Divine Movement. United by the Prophet Nefie from all, and if the prophet is not right, the temple is not right," according to the speaker.

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It is the "lawful and devine duty of every good member if he is able in finance, to aid me, in saving the nation and if he does not, he is an enemy to the cause of uplifting his own people and Justice mist catch you," according to additional laws of the

Prophet.

Besides prompt attendance at meetings, Moorish-Americans are commanded to send their children to Sunday School, "and the teacher mist confirm himself to the questionery (presumably the catechism). And let every member exercise his five senses who is able to do so, because out from our Sunday School comes the saviors of the Nation."

In addition, members must not work alongside of the American flag or against the church or its members or any organized group.

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...a member is, I don't remember, and on their meeting party  
 ...will be fined \$500 on the first case, and on the second, he  
 ...will be fined one dollar (\$1.00), which will go on your emergency  
 ...fund, who laws state. "If member is working his monthly dues  
 ...—be paid, and if he has money in the bank he must subscribe for  
 ...finance to uplift a nation."

And, finally, "With us all members must proclaim their nation-  
 ality and we are teaching our people their nationality and their  
 ...Folk, Black people, or nations, because these names were given  
 to slaves in slave holders in 1776 and lasted until 1865 during the  
 time of slavery, but this is a new era of time now, and all men  
 now must proclaim their free national name to be recognized by the  
 government in which they live and the nations of the earth, this  
 is the reason why Allah the Great God of the universe ordained  
 ...the prophet to redeem His people from their sinful ways."

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1. (V)

Thus, the English College Temple of America, No. 35,  
with its College, its buildings, its library and its head-  
quarters at 229 Village Street.



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ARTICLE IV

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Someday when sufficient funds are available Hartford members of the Moorish Science Temple of America here hope to build a "mosque," according to Grand Sheikh head of the local organization.

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"We don't know when we can build a mosque because money is so slow," the Grand Sheikh explained. "It's really slow now. We can hardly live." To support his wife and four children, the eldest is, he gets about \$12 weekly as a WPA worker "on the reservoir" here where he cuts and piles wood and brush and burns accumulation that cannot be used for fuel.

Until such time then as an adequate sum can be raised, the Moorish-Americans will hold their religious services and social functions on the second and third floors of an old building at 229 Village Street.

Conducted by Grand Sheikh Day, the regular meetings are held Friday night, called the "Divine Night," because "Friday was the first day that man was formed in the flesh and the day that he departed out of the flesh. On Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. "plenary in Mohammedanism" are held. Other than these, excepting special business sessions, no other meetings are held, though on some Saturday nights members gather at the temple for dances.

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Closed to the white man, the services are held in a hall on the third floor of the Village Street building with a seating capacity of about 100, the normal attendance. "All members never come at one time unless we have something good," the Grand Sheikh said, explaining he meant an unusually "good program."

Brightly decorated with paper streamers of brilliant, varying colors, the room is equipped with a pulpit flanked on one side by the American flag and on the other by the flag of Morocco. The five points of the star in the center of the Moroccan banner symbolize love, truth, peace, freedom and justice. From the walls hang two documents, one a certificate from Chicago headquarters on the second consisting of articles of association issued by the State of Connecticut to the Temple on May 10, 1937. Formed as an organization without capital stock, the Temple paid a charter fee of \$15 and declared its purpose was to uplift "fallen humanity and to teach our people to obey the laws of the Government, also their nationality and religion." At the State Capitol records show the corporation to be situated at 36 Bellevue Street,

Named as the agent on whom process may

be served is Grand Sheikh

of Brooklyn, N.Y.

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The donning of fezzes, black ones by the ushers, and of turbans, mostly scarlet, by the women, is necessary at the services. The color of the assemblage is further heightened by the wearing by both sexes of extremely bright costumes of red, blue, green, yellow, pink, in fact, most any hue desired. The men are arrayed in flashing, baggy trousers, waistls and capes, and the women in equally arresting gowns. According to Countryman-Boy most of the costumes are home-made.

Lasting from two and a half to three hours, the regular services open with a prayer to Allah. Rising and facing the East, the members bow their heads, hold up seven fingers, the five of the right hand and two of the left, and repeat: "Allah, the Father of Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice. Allah is my protector, my guide and my salvation and by night and by day through his Holy Prophet, Noble Drew Ali. Amen." Presumably the raised fingers symbolize the seven eyes of Allah referred to in the catechism. The prayer is repeated at the close of the meeting.

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From after the opening to just before the end of the session the ritual is pretty free and quite impromptu. Parts of "The Holy Quran" are read.

Bey said "most any chapter" was chosen for a meeting. Then, there is the singing of religious songs taken from Negro Christian churches and altered to fit the new faith. That "Ole-Time Religion" becomes "Islam Is That Ole-Time Religion" and "Steal Away To Jesus" becomes "Steal away to Allah."

Considerable time is also reserved for the delivery of extemporaneous and unsolicited remarks on most any subject chosen by individual members of the congregation.

Bey explained that between songs "different ones testify." "They tell how they enjoy the religion and the nationality and other things," he said. Students of the organization here have declared that the free expression is one of the great attractions to many members. They reason that the Moorish-Americans grew tired of the Christian ministers doing all the sermonizing, so they joined a religion that allows them to talk, too.

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"Sister Bey, rotund local Mohammedan leader, classified the prophet as follows: 'He's the reincarnation of Mohammed, the only living prophet of Allah, the father of the universe, love and truth. The earth is his footstool. Blessed be his name.'

"Speaking of herself, Sister said: 'I am the highest type of civilization.'

"Members of another faith are barred from the services. 'I would be beyond my jurisdiction to allow one of another faith to attend one of our services,' she said. 'We don't care to communicate.' Members of the temple wear turbans during services."

Grand Sheikh

-21, designated head of the eastern division of the Moorish Science Temple, has told the local congregation that ~~their~~ its new religion is the true Mohammedanism and is practiced in the orthodox fashion, according to

Boy.

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(IV)

Admitting that perhaps all of the "principles" of Mormon edification are not yet employed by the Latter-day Saints, they contend that what is practiced is at least a part of the genuine Islam ritual, and he expresses the hope that eventually the congregation may master all of it.

Turner did not, he stated, lead them to believe that "The Holy Koran" of the cult is the true Koran. They nevertheless believes that a part of it is. As to the sources of the rest of the book, he does not pretend to know them, but he believes everything in the "Koran" as far as "I've studied it." With only three or four years of <sup>reading</sup>, the Grand Sheikh reads and writes "very little" on his own word.

He knows that Marcus Garvey, founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, who is mentioned in the "Koran" as the forerunner of the prophet, was placed in prison for using the mails to defraud, but the fact does not disturb him, nor does it appear incompatible in his mind with the religion.

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They said he does not believe that Harvey has  
thing to do with the poorly science theory of murder; and the  
matter was lost there. Yes, he did once a member of the U. I. A.  
and he remembers when Gary once came to Hartford, but he never  
contributed anything to the Hartford's cause.

The Hartford Grand Chalk was says he does not believe in  
Christ, but he does in Jesus, who was one of the prophets. "One  
of the cardinal teachings of the people is: 'against all religions  
they must and like to be brought.'"

"I don't believe there is a place like hell either than here  
on the earth," he said. "I believe heaven and hell  
what you make them." "I am returning to earth after death; he goes  
to no heaven or hell."

Write a bit of the (translation) Bible is true, but not all  
of it," he said, and he added in reply to a question that was put  
no attention to the white man and a contradiction in regard to him

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As long as he and the congregation follow the laws as assertedly laid down by Noble Brow all, the former of the original

Key and other members will be in good standing.

Let them depart, however, from the rules as printed in literature of the national movement, and expulsion is inevitable. These are a study in themselves.

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ARTICLE III

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Jesus was first reincarnated into the person of the Prophet Mohammed, and Satan gave himself the title of God.

This, at any rate, is what the catechism of the Moorish Science Temple of America teaches, among many fascinating things, to a reported several hundred Hartford Negro adults and children who have left Christian Churches here to follow what they believe is their true religion, an apocryphal Islam.

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In this document, known as "Koran Questions For Moorish Americans" are found in question-answer style a very strange assortment of assertions all aimed to satisfy the devout colored reader that he is not a Negro and that his real religion is Islam.

With an almost admirable disregard for what Christians believe to be fact, the irreconcilables have been harmonized enough to allow the Negro to carry away with him to his new faith those elements of Christianity which still strongly appeal. He is, then, logically speaking, able to have his cake and eat it, too. In "The Holy Koran," the sacred book of the Moorish-Americans, virtually all of the same ideas are present, but the ingenuity and effectiveness of presentation found in the catechism is absent.

Presumably prepared by Noble Drew Ali, the supposed late founder of the Moorish Science Temple, whose name appears on the cover of the document and who is represented in a symbolic drawing beneath the title as rescuing fallen humanity, the questions cover a wide range of subjects.

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The faithful learn of their god, prophet and nationality at the beginning as follows:

"Who made you? ALLAH.

"Who is ALLAH? ALLAH is the Father of the Universe

"Can we see him? No.

"Where is the nearest place we can meet Him? In the heart.

"Who is Drew Noble Ali? He is ALLAH's Prophet.

"What is the duty of a Prophet? To save nations from the

wrath of ALLAH.

"What is your nationality? Moorish-American.

"Why are we Moorish-Americans? Because we are descendants of Morroccans and born in America.

"How did the Prophet begin to uplift the Moorish-American? By teaching them to be themselves."

There ensues the definition of the sect and some interesting statements regarding Jesus:



city.

"What is our religion? Islamism.

"Is that a new, or is that the old time religion? Old time religion.

"What kind of a flag is the Moorish. It is a red flag with a five pointed green star in the center.

"What do the five points represent? Love, Truth, Peace Freedom and Justice.

"How old is our flag? It is over 10,000 years old.

"Which is our Holy Day? Friday.

"Why? Because Friday is the day on which man was formed in the flesh, and it was on Friday when He departed out of flesh.

"Who was Jesus? He was a Prophet of Allah.

"Will you give in brief the line (genealogy) through which Jesus came? Some of the Great Fathers through which Jesus came are: Abraham, Bonz by Ruth, Jesse, King David, Solomon, Hezekiah and Joseph by Mary.

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"Why did ALLAH send Jesus to this earth? To save the Israelites from the iron-hand oppression of the pale-skin nations of Europe, who were governing a portion of Palestine at that time."

"Where do we get the name Jesus? From the East."

"What does Jesus mean? Jesus means Justice."

"Did the Angel give to the Child that was called Jesus a Holy name? Yes, but it cannot be used by those who are slaves to sin."

Probably the term 'Christ' is meant. For according to

Grand Sheikh

-Bey

Christ mean

crushed. He explained that it signifies "something that has been crushed out." "That's why we don't use it."

On the subjects of truth and freedom and Eden and the first "physical man," the Moorish-American learns:

"That old Jesus say that would make you free? TRUTH."

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"What is TRUTH? TRUTH is aught.

"What is Aught? Aught is aught.

"Can TRUTH change? TRUTH cannot change, or pass away.

"What other name do we give to TRUTH? HOLY BREATH.

"What have you to say about the HOLY BREATH? All we say is it is Great. It is good. It was, it is, and evermore to be.

AMEN.

"At what place on earth was the physical part of Man formed? In the Garden of Eden.

"Where is the Garden of Eden? In the Land of Canaan, in the City of Mecca.

"What is the modern name for the Garden of Eden? MECCA.

"What is the name of the great physical Van? His name cannot be used, only by Executive Orders of the A.C. of the I.T. of A.

"What are the words of the A.C. of the I.T. of A. Adept Chamber of the Moorish Science Temple of America (2nd Heaven.)

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One learns then that the Holy City of Mecca is guarded by olive-skin angels with the modern name of "Asiaties" whose duty is to ward off unbelievers. "Are the Moorish Americans any relation to those Angels? Yes, we all have the same father and mother."

The five descendants of Adam and Eve are known as "Life, Satan, Devil, Dragon and Peast," according to the catechism, the Devil is sometimes known as the "Lower-self." To balance this there is a higher self identified as "the Mother of virtue and the harmonies of life" that "breeds Justice, Mercy, Love and Light." Contrariwise from the lower-self springs "Injustice, Murder, Greed, Theft and everything that harms."

"What did the Higher-self say to the Lower-self at one time when He met Him? 'Where are you going Satan?'

"That was the answer the Lower-self gave to the Higher-self. 'I am going to and fro the earth seeking whom I may devour.'

"Has he finished His task of devouring? Yes.

"When was His time declared cut? When He nailed Jesus on the cross.

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city.

"What are the last words Jesus uttered? It is finished.

"What did He have reference to. He had reference to the end

of Satan.

"Did Jesus say, that He would return to conquer Him? Yes.

"What is the name of the person into whom Jesus was first reincarnated? Prophet MOHAMED, the the Conqueror.

"Was Satan to be bound then. Satan was to be bound in part.

"When was the head of Satan taken off? 1453 (Byzantine)."

After giving Mohammed credit for the decapitation, the cat chism plunges into definitions and winds up with reference to the cryptic circle that graces the cover of "The Holy Koran." In its center is a bright red "7".

"Name some of the marks that were put upon the BOOKS of the west, by the European nations in 1774? Negro, Black, Colored and Ethiopia.

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Negro, it is asserted, is "a name given to a river in West Africa by Moors, because it contains black water," and black, "according to science, means death."

"What does the word colored mean? Colored means anything that has been painted, stained, varnished or dyed." And, as I said in "The Holy Foren," Ethiopia "means something divided."

"Can a man be a Negro, Black, Colored or Ethiopian? No.

Why? Because man is made in the Image and after the likeness of God, Allah."

"What title does Satan give Himself? God.

"Will you define the word White? White means purity, Purity means God, and God means the Ruler of the Land.

"To whom do we refer at all times, as being the GREAT?

ALLAH."

The Devil, the catechism asserts, was made by Elohim, identified as the "Seven Creative Spirits that created everything...."

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"What is Elohim sometimes called? The SEVEN EYES OF ALLAH.

"How many days are in the Circle? Seven days.

"How many days are in a creation? Seven days.

And finally: "According to science, how many days are in

year? Seven days."

Thus equipped with their "Koran" and catechism, the follow

ers of the Moorish Science Temple of America assemble at their

headquarters on Village Street to practice the faith.

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ARTICLE 11

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If a president of the United States were convicted of a felony, sent to a Federal penitentiary, later deported and then came to be mentioned in the Bible as a prophet who visited the earth to warn the nations that Christ was coming to stamp out all evil, it would be only a slightly exaggerated parallel of a situation existing in the Hartford branch of the Moorish Science Temple of America.

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Comparable to the Christian Bible, "The Holy Quran" of the Moorish-Americans here named Marcus Harvey, the deported Jamaican Negro founder of The Universal Negro Improvement Association as a "divinely prepared" forerunner of Noble Drew Ali, the founder of the national organization of so-called colored Moslem temples, perhaps Mr. Harvey will be better remembered if one refers to his "Back-to-Africa" movement and his ill-fated Black Star (steamship) Line of "relaxers," which had millions of zealous followers back in 1920.

Called in New York, "Sir President of Africa," after his announced intention of taking possession of the Black Continent, starting with Liberia, and establishing independent Negro governments there, the Jamaican was subsequently convicted by a United States District Court of using the mails to defraud, fined \$5000 and sentenced to five years in the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta. On commutation of his sentence in 1927, he was deported, and on one occasion thereafter he was requested to leave Canada, where he had some frontier West Indian home.

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"John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus in those days to warn and stir up the nations and prepare them to receive the divine creed which was to be taught by Jesus," The Holy Koran used by Hartford members of the faith reads in part.

"In these modern days there came a forerunner, who was divinely prepared by the great God-Allah and his name is Marcus Garvey," the chapter continues, "who did teach and warn the nations of the earth to prepare to meet the coming Prophet; who was to bring the true and divine Creed of Islam, and his name is Noble Drew Ali; who was prepared and sent to this earth by Allah, to teach the old time religion and the everlasting gospel to the sons of men."

Except for one important fact, the irregularity here is not so striking, aside, of course, from the mention of Jesus, Allah and Islam together. For it may be assumed that at the time The Holy Koran was being put together, Mr. Garvey was in his heyday.

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Himself something of a messiah to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Negroes, he would appeal as a prophet. At the moment when his name was set down as a forerunner, he might well have been editing The Negro World and perhaps simultaneously, floating The Negro Factories Corporation, which was capitalized at a million dollars, and selling shares like hotcakes, at \$5 each in his \$10,000,000 steamship line.

But Mr. Garvey was proud of his Negro blood. In an autobiographical article appearing in "Current History" in 1923 in defense of his activities, he wrote: "My parents were black negroes." Not only the Holy Koran, but also the catechism used by the Moorish-Americans, stoutly deny the existence of the Negro race.

"According to all true and divine records of the human race there is no negro, black, or colored race attached to the human family," the "Koran" says, "because all of the inhabitants of Africa were and are of the human race, descendants of the ancient Canaanite nation from the holy land of Canaan."

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To the casual reader "The Holy Koran" is not only of interest because of its mention of Marcus Garvey and the fact that at least 11 chapters are taken almost verbatim from "The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ," a book copyrighted in 1908, but also because of other chapters which give a decidedly fresh and curious, if chimerical, twist to ethnology, geology and geography.

Moslems, all, according to the "Koran," are the people of only of Egypt, Japan, China and India, but the inhabitants of Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Columbia, Nicaragua and San Salvador as well.

"The Egyptians, who were the Hamittes, and of a direct descent of Mizraim, the Arabians, the seed of Hager, Japanese and Chinese," Chapter XVI reads in part. "The Hindoos of India, the descendants of the ancient Canaanites, Hittites and Moabites from the land of Canaan. The Asiatic nations and countries in North, South and Central America; the Moorish Americans and Mexicans of North America, Brazilians, Argentines and Chilians of South America. Columbians, Nicaraguans and the natives of San Salvador in Central America, etc. All of these are Moslems."

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In the succeeding chapter the reader comes upon the heart of the religion. He learns of the origin of the words 'Ethiopia' and negro and of the great earthquake that fashioned the Atlantic ocean and cut in two the huge empire of Morocco which extended at one time to embrace the Americas. There is every reason to believe that this section is read more frequently in the Temple on Village Street in Hartford than any other.

"The inhabitants of Africa," it begins, "are the descendants of the ancient Canaanites from the land of Canaan. Old man Cush and his family were the first inhabitants of Africa who came from the land of Canaan. His father Ham and his family were second. They came the word Ethiopia which means 'the demarcation line of the domain of Amexom, the first true and divine son of Africa.'"

Later there was an influx of other peoples, the book says, and "Their dominion and inhabitation extended from North-East and South-West Africa, across the great Atlantis even unto the present North, South and Central America and also Mexico and the Atlantis Islands."

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"Before the great earthquake, which caused the great Atlantic Ocean," the "Koran" continues. "The River Nile was dredged and made by the ancient Pharaohs of Egypt, in order to trade with the surrounding kingdoms. Also the Niger River was dredged by the great Pharaoh of Egypt in those ancient days for trade, and it extends eastward from the River Nile, westward across the great Atlantic Ocean."

"These holy and divine laws are from the Prophet, Noble Drew Ali, the founder of the uniting of the Moorish Science Temple of America," the "Koran" reads a few sentences later. "These laws are to be strictly preserved by the members of all the Temples, the Moorish Science Temple of America. That they will learn to open their meetings and guide them, according to the principles of Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice."

Skipping a few more sentences, the reader encounters the Prophet, Noble Drew Ali, was sent by the great God, Allah, to warn all Asiatics of America to repent from their sinful ways; before that great and lawful day which is sure to come.

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"The time has come when every nation must worship under its own vine and fig tree, and every tongue must confess his own."

"through sin and disobedience every nation has suffered alike; very; due to the fact that they honored not the creed, and principles of their forefathers. That is why the nationality of the Moors was taken away from them in 1774 and the word negro, black and Moored, was given to the Asiatics of America who were of Moorish descent, because they honored not the principles of their mother and father, and strayed after the gods of Europe of whom they knew nothing."

After asserting that in the final chapter of the Moorish Science Temple of America is a "gloriously chartered and incorporated organization, the ~~Good Book~~ that the world may hear and know the truth, that among the descendants of Africa the is still much wisdom to be learned in these days for the redemption of the sons of men under Love, Truth, Peace, Freedom and Justice."

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"We, as a clean and pure nation descended from the ~~ancestors~~ in habitants of Africa, do not desire to amalgamate or marry into the families of the pale skin nations of Europe.

"Neither serve ~~the~~ the gods of their religion, because our forefathers are the true and divine founders of the first religion, creed, for the redemption and salvation of mankind on earth.

"Therefore we are returning the Church and Christianity back to the European Nations, as it was prepared by their forefathers for their earthly salvation.

"While we, the Moorish Americans are returning to Islam, which was founded by our forefathers for our earthly and divine salvation."

The text concludes: "Come all ye Asiatic of America and the truth about your nationality and birthrights, because you are not negroes. Learn of your forefathers ancient and divine creed. That you will learn to love instead of hate.

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"We are trying to uplift fallen humanity. Come and link yourselves with the families of nations. We honor all the true and divine prophets."

Apart from the "Aquarian Gospel" chapters, which mostly pertain to the activities of Jesus, much of the balance of the book is devoted to holy and divine instructions directed to young men, man and wife, children, etc.

Typical verses are the following on the duty of a husband toward his wife:

"Reprove her faults with gentleness, exact not her obedience with rigour. Consider the tenderness of her sex, the delicacy of her frame; and be not severe to her weakness, but remember her own imperfections."

Grand Sheikh

-Bey, head of the local temple  
said that only about a dozen or so "Korans" have been sold among the reported several hundred worshippers here-





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It is read at virtually every meeting held in the headquarters at 229 Village Street. Also read and allegedly studied by adults as well as children is the Moorish-American catechism, a document by no means second in interest to "The Holy Koran."

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ARTICLE VI

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For the avowed purpose of safeguarding the interests of the Christian Church and of satisfying a healthy curiosity, a committee or luncheon group of Hartford Negro ministers together with scholars at the Hartford Seminary Foundation has been investigating the Moorish Science Temple of America near  
on Village Street.

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seeking escape from the white man's religion  
and from social and economic restrictions, several hundred Negro  
men, women and children in Hartford have abandoned their respect-  
ive Christian churches here to practice a pseudo Mohammedan cult  
that bids fair to go down in the theological and sociological  
annals as one of the most singular and fantastic movements of our  
time.

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